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APPROVED BY: P:TPICKERING
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NSC:D CAMP P:EBARKS-RUGGLES S/S-O:MKLECHESKI
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TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL KARACHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DHAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE

DECAPTIONED

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS on : 1/4/13 ~ Class: SECRET ~
Reason: 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B1 ~ Declassify on: 01/06/2020

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 1/06/10

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TAGS: PREL, PTER, PK, AF, IN

SUBJECT: U/S PICKERING MEETS AMBASSADOR LODHI 1/6

(U) CLASSIFIED BY UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS
THOMAS PICKERING, REASON: 1.5(D).

1. (S) SUMMARY: UNDER SECRETARY PICKERING EXPRESSED
SERIOUS CONCERN THAT U.S.-PAKISTANI RELATIONS WERE MOVING
IN A NEGATIVE DIRECTION BECAUSE OF PAKISTANI POLICIES
TOWARDS KASHMIR, AFGHANISTAN AND TERRORISTS. PICKERING
SAID THAT THE US AND PAKISTAN NEEDED TO GET BENEATH
SUPERFICIAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE CRISIS OF THE DAY AND
REALLY TALK ON LONG-TERM GOALS AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2011-03409 Doc No. C17640550 Date: 05/20/2013

STRATEGIES BEING USED TO PURSUE THOSE GOALS - ESPECIALLY IN KASHMIR. HE UNDERScoreD THAT THE INSTRUMENTS PAKISTAN HAS CHOSEN TO FURTHER ITS POLICIES IN AFGHANISTAN AND KASHMIR ARE NOT BEING CONTROLLED AND NOW DIRECTLY THREATEN U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS. PICKERING SAID THAT PAKISTAN MUST BEGIN TO LOOK SERIOUSLY AT ITS OWN LONG-TERM INTERESTS AND ADDRESS THESE GROWING PROBLEMS. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT THEY WOULD, IN THIS PROCESS, TAKE INTO ACCOUNT USG CONCERNS AND INTERESTS, AND WE WOULD BE WILLING TO WORK WITH THEM ON THAT. WE ARE READY TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON THE PRESIDENT'S JULY 4 INTEREST IN KASHMIR; CURRENT

PROBLEMS WERE INCREASINGLY GETTING IN THE WAY. PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR LODHI SAID THE GOP WOULD BE ATTEMPTING TO DETAIN TWO OF THE THREE MILITANTS FREED BY THE HIJACKING. SHE PROPOSED A "STRATEGIC DIALOGUE" TO DISCUSS THE LARGER ISSUES, NOTING THAT IT WAS DEFINITELY NEEDED.

END SUMMARY.

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1.4(B)
1.4(D)

2. (U) MALEEHA LODHI, PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR, MET WITH UNDERSECRETARY PICKERING ON JANUARY 6. LODHI WAS ACCOMPANIED BY PAKISTAN EMBASSY DCM SHAHID KAMAL AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR MASOOD KHAN. UNDERSECRETARY PICKERING WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SOUTH ASIA INDERFURTH, COORDINATOR FOR COUNTER-TERRORISM SHEEHAN, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASTHAM, NSC DIRECTOR CAMP, PAKISTAN DESK OFFICER VIGUERIE (NOTETAKER), AND P STAFF ERICA BARKS-RUGGLES.

"GETTING BEYOND DEBATING POINTS"

3. (C) PICKERING BEGAN BY OBSERVING THAT TOO MANY OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH PAKISTAN INVOLVE EXCHANGES OF DEBATING POINTS THAT DID NOT SUCCINCTLY AND DIRECTLY ADDRESS THE STRATEGIC ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE RELATIONSHIP. OUR 52-YEAR-LONG RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN MARKED BY SWINGS BETWEEN VERY GOOD AND AWFUL PERIODS. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, WE WERE MOVING ON A TANGENT TOWARD ANOTHER AWFUL PERIOD. TOO OFTEN IN OUR RELATIONS WE GO FROM ONE TERRIBLE CRISIS

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SUPERFICIAL DISCUSSION OF THE CRISIS OF THE MOMENT AND
ADDRESS LARGER, LONG-TERM STRATEGIC INTERESTS, AS THAT IS
WHAT IS NOW CAUSING A SERIOUS FRAYING IN THE RELATIONSHIP.
WE WANT TO PUT ACROSS OUR STRONG SENSE OF CONCERN, OUR
WILLINGNESS TO PURSUE COMMON INTERESTS AND THE NECESSITY
TO TAKE ACTION.

INSTRUMENTS OF GOP POLICY THREATEN U.S. INTERESTS

4. (C) PICKERING ACKNOWLEDGED THERE WERE A HOST OF ISSUES
WE COULD RAISE WITH PAKISTAN. THE MOST URGENT AND
PRESSING NOW WERE THE OUTCOME OF THE INDIAN AIRLINES
HIJACKING AND TERRORISM. THESE ARE, BY THEIR NATURE,
INEXTRICABLY RELATED TO PAKISTAN'S POLICY GOALS AND
STRATEGY IN KASHMIR AND AFGHANISTAN. IN THOSE TWO
REGIONS, THE GOP HAS SELECTED INSTRUMENTS WHICH, FOR THE
FIRST TIME, HAD COME INTO DIRECT CONFLICT WITH THE
NATIONAL INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES. GROUPS LIKE HUA,
HUM AND UBL POSE A DIRECT THREAT TO OUR CITIZENS, OUR
POLICY AND OUR INTERESTS HERE AND ABROAD. PICKERING
UNDERScoreD THAT HE DOES NOT MEAN TO IMPLY, NOR DID HE
BELIEVE, THAT GENERAL MUSHARRAF WANTS THIS AND WE DO NOT
THINK THE GOP PLANNED THIS OUTCOME. THE FACT REMAINED
THAT OUR INTERESTS WERE COMING INTO CONFLICT.

HIJACKING, AFGHANISTAN AND TERRORISM

5. (C) THE HIJACKING OF THE INDIAN AIRLINES POSED A
DIRECT THREAT TO AMERICAN CITIZENS AND INTERESTS,
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PICKERING SAID. IT CONSTITUTES AN EXTREME VIOLATION OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS SUCH. IT HAS
CAUSED SERIOUS PROBLEMS TO THE U.S. AND OTHERS. WHILE WE
DO NOT BELIEVE PAKISTAN PLANNED THE HIJACKING, PICKERING
SAID, THE FACT IS THAT THOSE WHO BENEFITTED FROM IT HAVE
CROSSED INTO OR THROUGH PAKISTAN. WE WELCOME ANY INITIAL
STEPS PAKISTAN TAKES TO DETAIN THE HIJACKERS AND AGAINST
THE HARKAT UL-MUJAHIDEEN (HUM) IN GENERAL. HOWEVER,
PICKERING SAID, AS A FRIEND, WE MUST REITERATE OUR
DISCUSSION OF TWO YEARS AGO ABOUT THE HUA AND THE HUM AND
WARN THAT PAKISTAN SHOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE PROBLEMS

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THESE GROUPS COULD CAUSE. WE BELIEVE IT IS IN PAKISTAN'S OWN INTEREST TO FIND A WAY TO SEVER COMPLETELY ANY TIES WITH HUM. AS A RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, PAKISTAN NEEDS TO TAKE THIS ACTION ON AN URGENT BASIS. LODHI ANNOUNCED THAT SOME ACTIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN TAKEN--PAKISTANI AUTHORITIES WOULD BE ATTEMPTING TO DETAIN TWO OF THE THREE MILITANTS WHO HAD BEEN FREED BY THE HIJACKING. PAKISTAN INTENDED TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT CONDEMNING THREATS AGAINST CITIZENS OF ANY NATIONALITY AND DISASSOCIATING ITSELF FROM CRIMINAL AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.

6. (S) PICKERING WELCOMED THIS NEWS, BUT SAID WE REMAIN SERIOUSLY CONCERNED BY THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE LONGER-TERM STRATEGY OF ASSOCIATING WITH THE HUM, AS WELL AS THE

THREAT POSED BY USAMA BIN LADIN, WHO BY HIS ATTACKS ON U.S. EMBASSIES IN AUGUST 1998 PLACED HIMSELF IN A VIRTUAL STATE OF WAR AGAINST THE UNITED STATES. WE DO NOT BELIEVE PAKISTAN IS DIRECTLY ENGAGED IN ABETTING BIN LADIN,

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PICKERING UNDERLINED, BUT THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN PAKISTAN'S FIRM SUPPORT FOR THE TALIBAN, AND THE TALIBAN'S SUPPORT FOR BIN LADIN. THIS POLICY DIRECTLY AND ADVERSELY AFFECTS OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.

7. (S) OUR PRESCRIPTIONS FOR ACTION ON TERRORIST THREATS WOULD NOT BE NEW TO PAKISTAN, PICKERING ADDED, BUT THEY HAVE TAKEN ON A NEW PROMINENCE IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE HIJACKING. WE RECOGNIZE THE MUSHARRAF GOVERNMENT HAS FACED DIFFICULT PROBLEMS IN ITS FIRST 90 DAYS. WE ARE WILLING TO MAKE A SERIOUS START ON WORKING THROUGH THESE PROBLEMS, BUT WE HAVE REAL CONCERNS WITH WHERE PAKISTAN IS GOING. INDERFURTH NOTED THAT THE PERCEPTION THAT PAKISTAN IS BECOMING A HAVEN FOR TERRORISTS IS SPREADING AND THAT PERCEPTION SOMETIMES BECOMES REALITY. HE SHOWED LODHI THE EDITORIAL IN THE WASHINGTON POST THAT LUMPED PAKISTAN WITH AFGHANISTAN AS AN EXAMPLE. INDERFURTH ALERTED LODHI THAT THIS PERCEPTION WAS WIDELY SHARED, AND WAS HELD BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HE HAD MET WITH WHO WERE TRAVELING TO PAKISTAN. PAKISTAN NEEDS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES, PICKERING ADDED, AND AVOID THE BLIND PURSUIT OF A SET OF TACTICAL IMPERATIVES WITHOUT REGARD TO A MORE STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVE.

8. (S) WHILE WE APPRECIATE ACTIONS MUSHARRAF HAS TAKEN ON SOME OF OUR TERRORIST-RELATED CONCERNS, PICKERING NOTED,

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INDIVIDUAL. MOREOVER, WE WILL NOT REST UNTIL WE SEE BIN
LADIN BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. WE NEED PAKISTAN'S HELP AND
BACKING ON THIS. SHEEHAN NOTED THAT THE LAST 45 DAYS HAD
DRASTICALLY CHANGED OUR CALIBRATION OF THE TERRORIST
THREATS. SHEEHAN SAID THAT THE COMMON THREAD IN ALL THESE
THREATS--THE TERRORIST CELL IN JORDAN, EXPLOSIVES SHIPPED
ACROSS THE U.S.-CANADIAN BORDER, THE HIJACKING OF INDIAN
AIRLINES--IS THAT THEY HAVE TIES TO INDIVIDUALS AND
ORGANIZATIONS IN PESHAWAR AND IN AFGHANISTAN.

9. (C) PICKERING SUMMARIZED OUR VIEWS ON THE BROADER
ISSUE OF A RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT IN AFGHANISTAN,

POINTING OUT THAT WE BELIEVE THAT PAKISTAN'S POLICY OF
UNCONDITIONAL ASSISTANCE TO THE TALIBAN IS GOING NOWHERE.
WE HOPE PAKISTAN CAN FOLLOW A NEW APPROACH, EITHER THROUGH
THE SIX PLUS TWO OR IN OTHER WAYS, INCLUDING THE DIALOGUE
WITH IRAN, TO ENSURE A NEW BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT IN AN
AFGHANISTAN WHERE MINORITY COMMUNITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS
ARE PROTECTED, AND TERRORISTS ARE NOT. PICKERING BELIEVED
THAT PAKISTAN'S INFLUENCE WITH THE TALIBAN--WHILE NOT
PERFECT--CAN BRING ABOUT CHANGES AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES
TO MOVE AHEAD.

KASHMIR AND INDO-PAKISTANI RELATIONS

10. (C) JUST AS YOUR POLICIES TOWARDS THE TALIBAN AND
TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS HAVE NOT SERVED YOUR INTERESTS
WELL, PICKERING CONTINUED, PAKISTAN'S POLICIES IN KASHMIR
HAVE NOT BEEN ADEPT AND WILL NOT GAIN PAKISTAN THE SUPPORT

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OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. WE VIEW AN ANSWER TO THE
FESTERING PROBLEM OF KASHMIR--A ROOT CAUSE OF CONFLICT IN
SOUTH ASIA--AS A KEY TO REGIONAL STABILITY. AS THE
PRESIDENT'S JULY 4 STATEMENT MAKES CLEAR, HE IS DIRECTLY
AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ISSUE, AND PERSONALLY
COMMITTED TO DO EVERYTHING HE CAN TO HELP ON THE KASHMIR
ISSUE. HOWEVER, WHILE KASHMIR IS IMPORTANT TO US, IT HAS
TO BE MORE IMPORTANT TO PAKISTAN. OUR EFFORTS TO ENGAGE
ON THIS ISSUE RUN INTO BRICK WALLS CAUSED BY TERRORISM AND
OTHER ISSUES. WE WOULD LIKE TO WORK TOGETHER TO DISMANTLE

11. (C) PICKERING STRESSED OUR CONCERN OVER THE FALLOUT OF THE HIJACKING ON INDO-PAKISTANI RELATIONS. WE BELIEVE BOTH SIDES NEED TO TRY ANY WAY THEY CAN TO CALM TENSIONS AND AVOID UNHELPFUL RHETORIC OR PROVOCATIONS. PICKERING WARNED THAT WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN THREE WARS AND CRISES LIKE KARGIL. WHILE BOTH SIDES SAY THEY CAN CONTROL THE SITUATION BEFORE IT GETS OUT OF HAND, PAKISTAN AND INDIA ARE GETTING TOO CLOSE TO THAT SITUATION AGAIN. THIS COULD LEAD TO A CATASTROPHE IN WHICH NO ONE WINS, BUT PAKISTAN LOSES WORSE. HE NOTED AGAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF REDUCING VIOLENCE OVER THE LINE OF CONTROL AND IN KASHMIR AND SAID WE WOULD BE HAVING A SIMILAR CONVERSATION WITH THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

WHERE WE GO FROM HERE

12. (C) DESPITE THE TERRIBLE START TO THE YEAR, PICKERING SAID, WE BELIEVE POSITIVE ACTIONS CAN TAKE PLACE IN SOUTH
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ASIA IN 2000. THERE IS GREAT POTENTIAL IF WE WORK TOGETHER. WE WANT TO WORK WITH PAKISTAN TO ENRICH THE DIALOGUE. WE ARE INTERESTED IN TALKING TO YOU AND PERHAPS SENDING USG OFFICIALS TO SEE MUSHARRAF. IT'S PAST TIME TO ADDRESS THE CRITICAL ISSUES WE HAVE OUTLINED. THERE ARE THOSE IN THE USG WHO WANT TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS ON PAKISTAN NOW. THIS IS NOT PRESENTED AS A THREAT, PICKERING EXPLAINED, BUT PRESSURE WILL CONTINUE TO GROW IF PAKISTAN CANNOT TURN THE SITUATION AROUND. WE ARE COMING CLOSE TO THE CLOCK CHIMING FOR U.S.-PAKISTAN RELATIONS, PICKERING CONCLUDED, BUT WE ARE NOT THERE YET. LODHI RESPONDED BY SUGGESTING PAKISTAN'S INTEREST IN ENGAGING IN A "STRATEGIC DIALOGUE" WITH THE UNITED STATES, ONE THAT WOULD BE AS QUIET AS POSSIBLE. IT COULD BE "FORMAL OR INFORMAL, BUT NOT IN PUBLIC."

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1.4(B)
1.4(D)

16. (S) IN A PRIVATE ASIDE AFTER THE MEETING, PICKERING
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REITERATED THE NEED FOR THE U.S. AND PAKISTAN TO TALK AT A
DEEPER LEVEL AND ENCOURAGED LODHI TO WORK CLOSELY WITH
INDERFURTH AND SHEEHAN ON THESE ISSUES. HE SAID HE
UNDERSTOOD HER REQUEST FOR PATIENCE, BUT THERE IS NOT MUCH
TIME -- THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN NEEDS TO MOVE QUICKLY
TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES, STARTING WITH SEPARATING
THEMSELVES FROM THE HUM, AND LOOKING AT THEIR LONGER-TERM
INTERESTS IN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN.

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